

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MARK HOFFMAN,) Case No. 07cv0618-WQH (BLM)
v. Plaintiff,)
GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION, et al.,) **CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
ORDER REGULATING DISCOVERY AND
OTHER PRETRIAL PROCEEDINGS**
Defendants.) (Fed. R. Civ. P. 16)
) (Local Rule 16.1)
) (Fed. R. Civ. P. 26)

Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a telephonic Case Management Conference was held on June 29, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. After consulting with the attorneys of record for the parties and being advised of the status of the case, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Any motion to join other parties, to amend the pleadings, or to file additional pleadings shall be filed on or before August 13, 2007.

2. Each party shall serve on all opposing parties a list of experts whom that party expects to call at trial, on or before September 28, 2007. Each party may supplement its designation in response to the other party's designation no later than October 12, 2007. Expert

1 designations shall include the name, address, and telephone number of
2 each expert and a reasonable summary of the testimony the expert is
3 expected to provide. The list shall also include the normal rates the
4 expert charges for deposition and trial testimony.

5 The parties must identify any person who may be used at trial to
6 present evidence pursuant to Rules 702, 703 or 705 of the Federal Rules
7 of Evidence. This requirement is not limited to retained experts.

8 **Please be advised that failure to comply with this section or any**
9 **other discovery order of the Court may result in the sanctions provided**
10 **for in Fed. R. Civ. P. 37, including a prohibition on the introduction**
11 **of experts or other designated matters in evidence.**

12 3. All expert disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)
13 shall be served on all parties on or before November 30, 2007. Any
14 contradictory or rebuttal information shall be disclosed on or before
15 December 14, 2007. In addition, Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e)(1) imposes a duty
16 on the parties to supplement the expert disclosures made pursuant to
17 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B) by the time that pretrial disclosures are
18 due under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) (discussed below).

19 The parties are advised to consult with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)
20 regarding expert disclosures. Such disclosures shall include an expert
21 report, all supporting materials, a complete statement of all opinions
22 to be expressed and the basis and reasons therefor, the data or other
23 information considered by the expert in forming the opinions, any
24 exhibits to be used as a summary of or as support for the opinions, the
25 qualifications of the witness including a list of all publications
26 authored by the witness within the preceding ten years, the compensation
27 to be paid for the study and testimony, and a list of other cases in
28 which the witness has testified as an expert at trial or by deposition

1 within the preceding four years.

2 This disclosure requirement applies to all persons retained or
 3 specially employed to provide expert testimony, or whose duties as an
 4 employee of the party regularly involve the giving of expert testimony.

5 **Please be advised that failure to comply with this section or any**
 6 **other discovery order of the Court may result in the sanctions provided**
 7 **for in Fed. R. Civ. P. 37, including a prohibition on the introduction**
 8 **of experts or other designated matters in evidence.**

9 4. All discovery shall be completed by all parties on or before
 10 January 28, 2008. "Completed" means that all discovery under Rules 30-
 11 36 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and discovery subpoenas
 12 under Rule 45, must be initiated a sufficient period of time in advance
 13 of the cut-off date, so that it may be completed by the cut-off date,
 14 taking into account the times for service, notice, and response as set
 15 forth in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

16 Counsel shall promptly and in good faith meet and confer with
 17 regard to all discovery disputes in compliance with Civil Local Rules
 18 16.5(k) and 26.1(a). All discovery motions shall be filed within thirty
 19 (30) days after counsel have met and conferred and reached an impasse
 20 with regard to any particular discovery issue, but in no event shall
 21 discovery motions be filed more than sixty (60) days after the date upon
 22 which the event giving rise to the discovery dispute occurred. For oral
 23 discovery, the event giving rise to the discovery dispute is the
 24 completion of the transcript of the affected portion of the deposition.
 25 For written discovery, the event giving rise to the discovery dispute is
 26 either the service of the response, or, if no response was served, the
 27 initial date the response was due. In addition, all discovery motions
 28 must be filed within thirty (30) days after the close of discovery.

1 5. All other pretrial motions must be filed on or before March
 2 28, 2008. Motions will not be heard or calendared unless counsel for
 3 the moving party has obtained a motion hearing date from the law clerk
 4 of the judge who will hear the motion. Failure to timely request a
 5 motion date may result in the motion not being heard. Motions will not
 6 be heard unless you have obtained a date from the judge's law clerk.

7 Questions regarding this case should be directed to the judge's law
 8 clerk. The Court draws the parties' attention to Local Rule 7.1(e)(4)
 9 which requires that the parties allot additional time for service of
 10 motion papers by mail. Papers not complying with this rule shall not be
 11 accepted for filing.

12 Briefs or memoranda in support of or in opposition to any pending
 13 motion shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages in length without leave
 14 of the judge who will hear the motion. No reply memorandum shall exceed
 15 ten (10) pages without leave of the judge who will hear the motion.

16 6. A Mandatory Settlement Conference shall be conducted on July
 17 23, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the chambers of Magistrate Judge Barbara L.
 18 Major located at 940 Front Street, Suite 5140, San Diego, CA 92101. All
 19 discussions at the Mandatory Settlement Conference will be informal, off
 20 the record, privileged, and confidential. Counsel for any non-English
 21 speaking party is responsible for arranging for the appearance of an
 22 interpreter at the conference.

23 a. Personal Appearance of Parties Required: All parties,
 24 adjusters for insured defendants, and other representatives of a party
 25 having full and complete authority to enter into a binding settlement,
 26 as well as the principal attorneys responsible for the litigation, must
 27 be present in person and legally and factually prepared to discuss
 28 settlement of the case. Counsel appearing without their clients

1 (whether or not counsel has been given settlement authority) will be
 2 cause for immediate imposition of sanctions and may also result in the
 3 immediate termination of the conference.

4 Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, persons required to
 5 attend the conference pursuant to this Order shall not be excused from
 6 personal attendance. **Requests for excuse from attendance for**
 7 **extraordinary circumstances shall be made in writing at least seventy-**
 8 **two (72) hours prior to the conference.** Failure to appear in person at
 9 the Mandatory Settlement Conference will be grounds for sanctions.

10 b. **Full Settlement Authority Required:** In addition to
 11 counsel who will try the case, a party or party representative with full
 12 settlement authority¹ must be present for the conference. In the case
 13 of a corporate entity, an authorized representative of the corporation
 14 who is not retained outside counsel must be present and must have
 15 discretionary authority to commit the company to pay an amount up to the
 16 amount of the Plaintiff's prayer (excluding punitive damages prayers).
 17 The purpose of this requirement is to have representatives present who
 18 can settle the case during the course of the conference without
 19 consulting a superior. Counsel for a government entity may be excused
 20 from this requirement so long as the government attorney who attends the

22 ¹ "Full settlement authority" means that the individuals at the settlement
 23 conference must be authorized to explore settlement options fully and to agree at that
 24 time to any settlement terms acceptable to the parties. Heileman Brewing Co. v. Joseph
Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir. 1989). The person needs to have "unfettered
 25 discretion and authority" to change the settlement position of a party. Pitman v.
Brinker Int'l, Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003). The purpose of requiring
 26 a person with unlimited settlement authority to attend the conference contemplates that
 27 the person's view of the case may be altered during the face to face conference. Id.
 28 at 486. A limited or a sum certain of authority is not adequate. See Nick v. Morgan's
Foods, Inc., 270 F.3d 590, 595-97 (8th Cir. 2001).

1 Mandatory Settlement Conference (1) has primary responsibility for
2 handling the case, and (2) may negotiate settlement offers which the
3 attorney is willing to recommend to the government official having
4 ultimate settlement authority.

5 c. Confidential Settlement Statements Required: No later
6 than July 16, 2007, the parties shall submit directly to Magistrate
7 Judge Major's chambers confidential settlement statements no more than
8 five (5) pages in length. These confidential statements shall not be
9 filed or served on opposing counsel. Each party's confidential
10 statement must include the following:

11 (i) A brief description of the case, the claims and/or
12 counterclaims asserted, and the applicable defenses or position
13 regarding the asserted claims;

14 (ii) A specific and current demand or offer for
15 settlement addressing all relief or remedies sought. If a specific
16 demand or offer for settlement cannot be made at the time the brief is
17 submitted, then the reasons therefore must be stated along with a
18 statement as to when the party will be in a position to state a demand
19 or make an offer; and

20 (iii) A brief description of any previous settlement
21 negotiations, mediation sessions, or mediation efforts.

22 General statements that a party will "negotiate in good faith" is
23 not a specific demand or offer contemplated by this Order. It is
24 assumed that all parties will negotiate in good faith.

25 d. Requests to Continue a Mandatory Settlement Conference:
26 Any request to continue the Mandatory Settlement Conference or request
27 for relief from any of the provisions or requirements of this Order must
28 be sought by a written ex parte application. The application must (1)

1 be supported by a declaration of counsel setting forth the reasons and
2 justifications for the relief requested, (2) confirm compliance with
3 Civil Local Rule 26.1, and (3) report the position of opposing counsel
4 or any unrepresented parties subject to the Order. **Absent extraordinary**
5 **circumstances, requests for continuances will not be considered unless**
6 **submitted in writing no less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled**
7 **conference.**

8 **If the case is settled in its entirety before the scheduled date of**
9 **the conference, counsel and any unrepresented parties must still appear**
10 **in person, unless a written joint motion confirming the complete**
11 **settlement of the case is submitted no less than twenty-four (24) hours**
12 **before the scheduled conference.**

13 7. The parties must comply with the pretrial disclosure
14 requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) no later than **July 7, 2008**.
15 The parties should consult Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) for the substance of
16 the required disclosures.

17 **Please be advised that failure to comply with this section or any**
18 **other discovery order of the Court may result in the sanctions provided**
19 **for in Fed. R. Civ. P. 37, including a prohibition on the introduction**
20 **of designated matters in evidence.**

21 8. No Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law are to be filed
22 unless so ordered by the Court.

23 9. Counsel shall confer and take the action required by Local
24 Rule 16.1(f)(4) on or before **July 14, 2008**. At this meeting, counsel
25 shall discuss and attempt to enter into stipulations and agreements
26 resulting in simplification of the triable issues. Counsel shall
27 exchange copies and/or display all exhibits other than those to be used
28 for impeachment, lists of witnesses and their addresses including

1 experts who will be called to testify, and written contentions of
2 applicable facts and law. The exhibits shall be prepared in accordance
3 with Local Rule 16.1(f)(2)(c). Counsel shall cooperate in the
4 preparation of the proposed final pretrial conference order.

5 10. The proposed final pretrial conference order, including
6 written objections, if any, to any party's Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3)
7 pretrial disclosures, shall be prepared, served, and submitted to the
8 Clerk's Office on or before July 21, 2008 and shall be in the form
9 prescribed in and in compliance with Local Rule 16.1(f)(6). Any
10 objections shall comply with the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P.
11 26(a)(3). **Please be advised that the failure to file written objections**
12 **to a party's pretrial disclosures may result in the waiver of such**
13 **objections, with the exception of those made pursuant to Rules 402**
14 **(relevance) and 403 (prejudice, confusion or waste of time) of the**
15 **Federal Rules of Evidence.**

16 11. The final pretrial conference is scheduled on the calendar of
17 the Honorable William Q. Hayes on July 28, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. The trial
18 date will be assigned by Judge Hayes at the pretrial conference.

19 12. The dates and times set forth herein will not be modified
20 except for good cause shown.

21 13. Plaintiff's(s') counsel shall serve a copy of this order on
22 all parties that enter this case hereafter.

23 DATED: July 3, 2007

24 

25 BARBARA L. MAJOR
26 United States Magistrate Judge

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1 COPY TO:

2 HONORABLE WILLIAM Q. HAYES
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

3 ALL COUNSEL

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